

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORKE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 134777

FOR AMB YOUNG FM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT HAVANA 1412 ACTION STATE INFO BRUSSELS KINSHASA
PARIS MAY 25.

QUOTES E C R E T HAVANA 1412

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PDEV, MILI, CG, CU, BE, AO, FR

SUBJECT: CUBANS ON SHABA CRISIS

1. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR, MAY 24, SHARED WITH US REPORT HE
IS SENDING TO BRUSSELS ON CUBAN ATTITUDES TOWARD SHABA
CRISIS. REPORT MAKES FOLLOWING POINTS:

2. IN APRIL FIDEL CASTRO CONVERSATION WITH ZAIRE MINISTER OF INFOR-
MATION MOKOLO WA MPOMBO (SEE HAVANA 1090), CASTRO STATED THAT CUBANS
HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH KATANGESE GENDARMES IN PAST AND WOULD HAVE
NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM IN FUTURE.

3. IN MAY 17 CONVERSATION WITH ZAIRE DELEGATE TO NON-ALIGNED COORD-
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INATING BUREAU KABEYA WAS MUKEBA (SEE HAVANA 1341), CUBAN FOREIGN
MINISTER ISIDORO MALMIERCA SAID THAT ZAIRE DELEGATION WOULD NOT HAVE
COME TO HAVANA IF MOBUTU REALLY THOUGHT THAT CUBA HAD ANYTHING TO DO
WITH SHABA INCURSION. MALCIERCA REITERATED THAT CUBA IS NOT INVOLVED.

4. MALMIERCA AT RECEPTION, MAY 18, TOLD BELGIAN AMBASSADOR THAT CUBANS

HAD NO INFORMATION INDICATING THAT KATANGESE HAD COMMITTED ANY OUT-RAGES IN SHABA. (COMMENT: VICE-PRESIDENT CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ APPARENTLY ALSO TOLD BELGIAN, MAY 18, THAT BELGIAN INTERVENTION WAS ACCEPTABLE, BUT THAT IT SHOULD END QUICKLY. SEE HAVANA 1380.)

5. FIDEL CASTRO, IN NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE RECEPTION CONVERSATION WITH KABEYA WA MUKEBA, MAY 18, FORCEFULLY STATED THAT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, SHABA INCURSION RESULTED FROM PROBLEMS WHICH ANGOLA HAD BEEN HAVING WITH ZAIRE. (COMMENT: THIS LINE THAT SHABA INCURSION IS REVENGE FOR ZAIRE SUPPORT OF FNLA, FLEL, AND UNITA WAS USED WITH US BY CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE EMBASSY, MAY 17 -- SEE HAVANA 1332. ARGUMENT, OF COURSE, APPEARS TO CLASH WITH CUBAN CLAIMS OF NON-INVOLVEMENT, UNLESS CASTRO IS SUGGESTING THAT NETO, SOME OTHER ANGOLA FIGURE, OR USSR IS PLAYING LONE-HANDED GAME WITHOUT CUBAN PARTICIPATION.) CASTRO CONTINUED THAT CUBANS HAD NOT EQUIPPED NOR TRAINED KATANGESE.

6. KABEYA WA MUKEBA REPLIED TO CASTRO THAT KATANGANS CARRY SAME WEAPONS AS CUBANS AND SOME SPEAK SPANISH. HE ADDED THAT MIXED ANGOLAN-ZAIRE COMMISSION HAD BEEN CREATED TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS BETWEEN KINSHASA AND LUANDA, BUT THAT NO PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE BECAUSE OF ANGOLAN "CREATION OF DIFFICULTIES" AND ANGOLA'S CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR KATANGESE.

7. FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA, AT GERMAN RECEPTION, MAY 23, NODDED AFFIRMATIVELY WHEN ASKED BY BELGIAN AMBASSADOR WHETHER BRUSSELS HAD DONE RIGHT THING IN EVACUATING EUROPEANS AND THEN SENDING BACK TO
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BELGIUM SOME TROOPS. (COMMENT: BELGIAN AMBASSADOR BELIEVES, AS DOES BRITISH AMBASSADOR, THAT CUBANS WELCOME EVACUATION OF EUROPEANS BECAUSE IT: A) REMOVES FURTHER PRETEXT FOR WEATERN INTERVENTION AGAINST KATANGESE, AND B) WILL LEAD TO CRIPPLING OF ZAIRE ECONOMY. WHILE NOT DISPUTING THAT THIS MAY BE RESULT OF EVACUATION, USINT BELIEVES THAT CUBANS MAY ACTUALLY BE CONCERNED WITH POSSIBILITY THAT WESTERN INTERVENTION WILL EAD TO THRUST INTO ANGOLA, A LA CASSINGA. KATANGESE RETREAT TOWARD ZAMBIA, AND NOT ANGOLA, WOULD TEND TO SUPPORT THIS VIEW. (DISCUSSION NOW IN U.S. ON CLARK AMENDMENT AND PUBLICATION OF STOCKWELL BOOK PRESUMABLY HEIGHTENS CUBAN ATTENTION TO POSSIBILITY OF TRANS-BORDER ACTIONS.)

8. MALMIERCA, MAY 23, WENT ON TO COMPLAIN TO BELGIAN THAT ZAIRE CONCESSION OF LAND ("LARGER THAN SIZE OF BELGIUM") TO WEST GERMAN OTRAG FIRM FOR TESTING OF MISSILES PRESENTED DANGERS TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. (COMMENT: THIS IS COMMONLY-USED BUCAN AND SOVIET PROPAGANDA LINE THAT MAY BE INDENDED TO PLAY ON RESIDUAL ANTI-GERMAN CONCERNS IN WESTERN EUROPE.) MALMIERCA, AS HE APPARENTLY ALSO DID WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR, MAY 23 (SEE HAVANA 1389) ALSO ASKED ABOUT FRENCH AND BELGIAN DIFFERENCES OF VIEW ON SHABA OPERATION. HE ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT TYPE OF HELP BELGIUM WOULD BE PROVIDING ZAIRE IN WAKE OF SHABA INCIDENT. (COMMENT: THIS STRENGTHENED BELGIAN'S

BELIEF THAT CUBANS ARE HOPING THAT ZAIRE ECONOMIC DISRUPTION
FOLLOWING EVACUATION OF EUEUROPEANS.) GLASSMAN UNQUOTE
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